



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Climate Change Impacts on Women: West Asia

Dr. Suad Joseph, General Editor

Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Women and Gender Studies, University of California, Davis

EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ The 2012 *Adaptation to a Changing Climate in the Arab Countries* report indicates that climate change impacts disproportionately affect the poor and have a greater impact on the daily lives of women.¹
- ❖ In 2014, the World Bank reported that women made up 49.7% of the population in Lebanon² and that they are more sensitive to thermal stress and exposure to extreme weather events than men. In most cases, women do not have the same or direct access to the financial, technological and social resources that men have. They do not generally have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process to confront climate change.³
- ❖ In a 2005 study carried out by the Issam Faires Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut, found that out of 2,223 women respondents in the underserved community of Bebnine, Lebanon, 32% reported poor health due to harsh environmental conditions and a lack of uncontaminated drinking water.⁴
- ❖ According to the “Programme for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change Efforts in Jordan,” that country is among the ten most water-poor countries in the world. Women in Jordan are disproportionately affected by this as they are the main custodians of water in both urban and rural households.⁵
- ❖ Freshwater availability per capita per year is one of the lowest in the world in Palestine and Palestinian women living in the Occupied Territories often lack of access to limited natural resources, such as water, as a result of the Israeli occupation and as a result of the drought.^{6,7}
- ❖ Organized by the United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs, Palestinian and Jordanian government officials and various stakeholders met in Amman, Jordan from July 4-7, 2015 for a joint workshop on addressing water scarcity, drought management plans, sustainable development goals, and the role of women in the process.⁸
- ❖ In November 2010, Jordan became the first country in the Arab League to begin considering gender in climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and initiatives.⁹

¹ <http://www.natureasia.com/en/nmiddleeast/article/10.1038/nmiddleeast.2011.164>

² <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/lebanon/population-female-percent-of-total-wb-data.html>

³ http://www.un.org/womenwatch/downloads/Resource_Guide_English_FINAL.pdf

⁴ <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/03630242.2013.806387>

⁵ <https://portals.iucn.org/union/sites/union/files/doc/jordan.pdf>

⁶ http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/country/home/tags/gaza_and_the_west_bank

⁷ Mayer, Tamar. 1994. “Women and the Israeli Occupation: The Politics of Change.”

⁸ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1729Concept%20Note%20for%20Combined%20Workshop%20Palestine%20&%20Jordan.pdf>

⁹ http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/social_policy/?6444/Jordan-first-Arab-country